AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented): A process for positioning an optical component between two optical fibers furnished at their end with lenses, it comprising the steps of:

drilling a support in such a way as to fix therein a capillary tube whose inside diameter is designed so as to slip an optical fiber thereinto,

fixing the capillary tube in the drilling of the support,

making a blind cut of the support and of the capillary tube, in such a way as to separate the capillary tube into two parts, a first plane face of the cut being perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the capillary tube such that said two parts are aligned with each other,

positioning the component on the first plane face, and

positioning an optical fiber in each of the parts.

2. (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the positioning of the component is carried out by marking the longitudinal axis of the capillary tube on the first plane face of the cut, then by positioning the component with respect to the mark thus defined.

3. (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein a second plane face of the cut forms an acute angle with the first plane face of the cut and in that the marking of the longitudinal axis of the capillary tube and the positioning of the component with respect to the mark is done by visual observation using the second plane face of the cut as means of optical feedback.

4. (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the capillary tube is glued to the support in such a way as together to form an optically homogeneous block, and in that the marking of the longitudinal axis of the capillary tube and the positioning of the component with respect to the mark is done by visual observation along the longitudinal axis of the capillary tube.

5. (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein each fiber is positioned translationally along the longitudinal axis and rotationally about the longitudinal axis so as to reduce to the maximum the optical losses due to a defect of alignment of the fibers.

6. (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lenses focus a radiation which passes through them onto a Gaussian mode diameter of between 1 and 50 μm.

7. (Currently Amended): A device for positioning an optical component between two optical fibers furnished at their end with lenses, comprising:

a support through which is fixed a capillary tube, the support having a blind cut so as to separate the capillary tube into two parts which ~~are mechanically aligned~~ in alignment with each other, in that the cut has a first plane face perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the capillary tube, and in that the component is positioned on the first plane face[[.]] , wherein said alignment results in the longitudinal axis of each of the two parts of the capillary tube to both lie along a common straight line within the same plane with respect to one another.

8. (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the cut has a second plane face forming an acute angle with the first plane face.

9. (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 7 wherein the capillary tube is glued to the support in such a way as together to form an optically homogeneous block.

10. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein each fiber is positioned translationally along the longitudinal axis and rotationally about the longitudinal axis so as to reduce to the maximum the optical losses due to a defect of alignment of the fibers.

11. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein each fiber is positioned translationally along the longitudinal axis and rotationally about the longitudinal

axis so as to reduce to the maximum the optical losses due to a defect of alignment of the fibers.

12. (Original): The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein each fiber is positioned translationally along the longitudinal axis and rotationally about the longitudinal axis so as to reduce to the maximum the optical losses due to a defect of alignment of the fibers.

13. (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the lenses focus a radiation which passes through them onto a Gaussian mode diameter of between 1 and 50 µm.

14. (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the lenses focus a radiation which passes through them onto a Gaussian mode diameter of between 1 and 50 µm.

15. (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the lenses focus a radiation which passes through them onto a Gaussian mode diameter of between 1 and 50 µm.

16. (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the lenses focus a radiation which passes through them onto a Gaussian mode diameter of between 1 and 50 µm.

17. (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the capillary tube is glued to the support in such a way as together to form an optically homogeneous block.

18. (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said two parts are aligned in a straight line.